

USDA/Rural Development

2 FINANCIAL PLAZA, SUITE 745, HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS • e-mail: Susan.Parrish@tx.usda.gov
VOICE: 936-291-1901 EXT. 4 • FAX: 936-294-0593 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

News Release

TX-112.02

For More Information Contact:
Susan Parrish

USDA ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING

(Leona Volunteer Fire Department to Receive a \$68,000 Loan and Grant)

Leona, Texas, October 24, 2002--Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that the Leona Volunteer Fire Department received a \$68,000 loan and grant through the Community Facilities (CF) loan and grant program, an agency that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The loan and grant funds will be used to purchase a new fire truck, which will provide additional fire protection and rescue service to the residents Leona and the surrounding service area. Population served by this project is 1,500.

In Fiscal Year 2001, a total of \$6.3 million in CF loans and grants were infused into rural Texas communities. USDA Rural Development finances health clinics, hospitals, libraries, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, elder care and child care facilities, and emergency medical equipment such as ambulances in rural areas and cities of up to 20,000 in population. Funding may be used to construct or improve community facilities and may include the costs of land, equipment, and necessary professional fees. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to nonprofit corporations and tribal governments.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Huntsville Local Office at (936) 291-1901, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

###

The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

